

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 01162 161411Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5865

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AL

SUBJECT: ALBANIAN LEADERSHIP

FOLLOWING IS RFE NOTE CONCERNING APPARENT CHANGES IN ALBANIAN LEADERSHIP. RFE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY OR DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE.

"ZERI I POPULLIT OF JUNE 1 CARRIED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE NAME OF LLAMBI GEGPRIFTI IN THE LIST OF POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP. HIS NAME APPEARED AT THE END OF NAMES OF FULL POLITBURO MEMBERS AND AHEAD OF THE LIST OF ALTERNATE POLITBURO MEMBERS, MAKING THUS UNCLEAR HIS EXACT STATUS.

GEGPRIFTI'S BACKGROUND IS MILITARY. HE BECAME DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE DURING THE RECENT RESHUFFLE IN THE TOPE ALBANIAN MILITARY ECHELON, WITH THE REPLACEMENT OF BALLUKU THROUGH MEHMET SHEHU. GEGPRIFTI WAS PROMOTED TO ALTERNATE CC MEMBERSHIP DURING THE SIXTH PARTY CONGRESS IN 1971. VERY LIKELY HE WAS ELEVATED TO POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP DURING THE RECENT SEVENTH PLENUM WHICH WAS HELD IN LATE MAY.

POLITBURO MEMBER AND MEMBER OF THE PARTY SECRETARIAT RAMIZ ALIA, HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM RECENT LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES IN ALBANIA. THE ALBANIAN NEWS MEDIA DID NOT CARRY HIS NAME AMONG THOSE ATTENDING THE MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN TIRANA. HE WAS AGAIN
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ABSENT FROM THE ATTENDANCE OF THE FESTIVAL OF MAY CONCERTS, AN

ANNUAL CULTURAL EVENT HELD IN TIRANA. PRESENT FOR THE OCCASION WERE
13 FULL AND ALTERNATE POLITBURO MEMBERS, BUT NOT ALIA. AS CHIEF
PARTY IDEOLOGIST AND CULTURAL EXPERT, ALIA SHOULD HAVE BEEN
PRESENT. ALIA WAS LAST HEARD OF 29 MARCH 1975, WHEN HE
DELIVERED THE MAIN REPORT TO A TRADE UNION PLENARY SESSION.
THE ADDRESS WAS PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE THEORETICAL
MONTHLY RRUGA E PARTISE. END QUOTE.
SPIVACK

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